

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yong-Hee LEE

Application No.: New Application

Filed: October 22, 2001

Attorney Dkt. No.: 109904-00064

For: METHOD FOR THE PRETREATMENT OF A SURFACE FOR THE  
REDUCTION OF NON-SPECIFIC BINDING BY CHEMICAL ENTITIES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 22, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to the examination of this  
application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows

3. Method according to claim 1 wherein,  
reservoir is subdivided into at least two compartments, the reservoir additionally  
comprises a filter membrane dividing said two compartments

4. Method according to claim 1, wherein,  
after bedewing the reservoir an equilibration step is performed.

6. Method according to claim 1 wherein,

the non ionic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters (tween), polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid esters (span), poloxamer (pluronic), and glyceryl monooleate

7. Method according to claim 1 wherein,  
the cationic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and cetrimide.

10. Use of a non ionic surfactant according to claim 8 wherein,  
the non ionic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters (tween), polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid esters (span), poloxamer (pluronic), and glyceryl monooleate.

11. Use of a cationic surfactant according to claim 8 wherein,  
a) the cationic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and cetrimide.

13. Plastic surface that has been pretreated according to claim 1.

14. Liquid holding reservoir, optionally comprising a filter membrane wherein, the reservoir is pretreated according to claim 1.

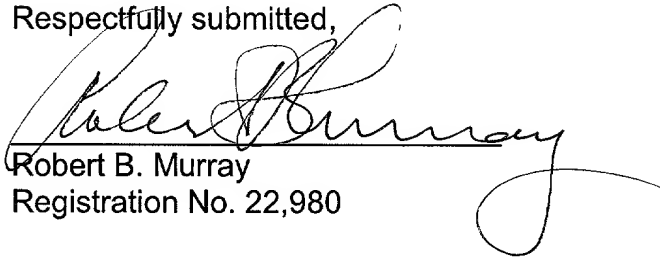
#### REMARKS

The above amendment to the claims has been made to correct the multiple dependency of the claims and to put the application in better condition for examination.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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## AMENDED CLAIMS:

1. Method for the pretreatment of a plastic surface for the reduction of non-specific binding by chemical entities to said surface comprising the steps of,  
bedewing at least a portion of the surface with either
  - a) a non ionic surfactant or,
  - b) a cationic surfactant or,
  - c) with both kinds of surfactants in sequential order.
2. Method according to claim 1 wherein,  
the surface is part of a reservoir for holding or filtrating liquids and all or parts of the reservoir are bedewed.
3. Method according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein,  
reservoir is subdivided into at least two compartments, the reservoir additionally comprises a filter membrane dividing said two compartments
4. Method according to claim[s 1 to 3] **1** wherein,  
after bedewing the reservoir an equilibration step is performed.
5. Method according to claim 3 wherein,  
the equilibration step is performed with a reagent chosen from the group comprising, phosphate buffered saline, saline, and Ringers solution.
6. Method according to [any of the above claims] **claim 1** wherein,  
the non ionic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters (tween), polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid esters (span), poloxamer (pluronic), and glyceryl monooleate.
7. Method according to claim[s 1 to 6] **1** wherein,  
the cationic surfactant is chosen form the group comprising 0.01% to 20% benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and cetrimide.

8. Use of a non ionic surfactant or a cationic surfactant for the pretreatment of a plastic reservoir comprising a filter membrane.
9. Use of a non ionic surfactant or a cationic surfactant according to claim 8 wherein, the filter membrane is chosen from the group comprising regenerated cellulose, and polyethylsulfone.
10. Use of a non ionic surfactant according to claim 8 [or 9] wherein, the non ionic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters (tween), polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene castor oil derivatives, sorbitan fatty acid esters (span), poloxamer (pluronic), and glyceryl monooleate.
11. Use of a cationic surfactant according to claim 8 [or 9] wherein, the cationic surfactant is chosen from the group comprising 0.01% to 20% benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and cetrimide.
12. Kit for the measurement of binding of small molecules or peptides to serum proteins comprising,
  - a) a reservoir comprising at least two compartments, the reservoir additionally comprising a filter membrane dividing said two compartments and,
  - b) either a cationic surfactant or a nonionic surfactant or both.
13. Plastic surface that has been pretreated according to [any of claims 1 to 7] **claim 1**.
14. Liquid holding reservoir, optionally comprising a filter membrane wherein, the reservoir is pretreated according to [any of claims 1 to 7] **claim 1**.